



The use of knots dates back to the early hunters and fishermen. These people tied together ropes made of animal hair, sinew, or vines. In this way they made traps and nets. Early man also made an ax by tying together a stone and a stick.

The Egyptians tied knots to make rope bridges and fishing nets.

The Romans attributed great power to knots. They believed that a bandage tied with a reef knot would help the wound to heal faster. They also believed that certain knots, when tied near a person, would paralyze all parts of his body.

The Incas had certain knots called quipas which they used to keep records.

Sailors still use knots for many different purposes. They can measure the depth of the water by lowering a weighted rope and counting the knots as they go down.

Knots are used to tie, to pull, to lift, and to support many things. Knots are used in many different ways.

1. This story is about:
 - (a) ropes
 - (b) superstitions
 - (c) knots
 - (d) early man
2. The Incas used knots to:
 - (a) keep records
 - (b) measure the depth of the water
 - (c) make axes
 - (d) make bridges
3. The Romans believed that knots had:
 - (a) great strength
 - (b) great power
 - (c) uses for record keeping
 - (d) great support
4. How do sailors still use knots?
 - (a) to make bridges
 - (b) for fishing nets
 - (c) to heal sickness
 - (d) to measure water depths
5. This story tells:
 - (a) what causes change
 - (b) things as they happen
 - (c) facts about the main idea
 - (d) how things are alike and different
6. Sinew is:
 - (a) animal hair
 - (b) a tendon, used as thread
 - (c) a vine
 - (d) a knot
7. According to this story, you could say that the Romans felt that knots had:
 - (a) supernatural ability
 - (b) practical ability
 - (c) necessary uses
 - (d) ability to capture the soul
8. From the facts in this story, you could say this about knots:
 - (a) they are a relatively new invention
 - (b) they have varied uses
 - (c) they are necessary in Roman ceremony
 - (d) they have special power